Captive Wildlife Discussion Paper

A Summary Overview

The Yukon government's public consultation on new Captive Wildlife Regulations is to guide captive wildlife management in the Yukon. This summary only provides the briefest of details and is intended to direct you to obtain and read the full discussion paper for more detailed information. The page numbers for the details in the discussion paper are noted throughout this document.

Many of the activities covered in the discussion paper have never undergone a public regulatory review. The activities range from wildlife viewing such as wildlife parks or zoos to fur farming, possessing wildlife as pets and caring for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife. There has also been a need expressed for rules on falconry and providing terms and conditions for scientific research and the import and export of wildlife.

What This Consultation Does Not Cover

Game farming is not included in this review as it is already covered under Game Farm Regulations under the Wildlife Act. (See page 4) This consultation does not cover domestic animals such as dogs, cats, horses and cattle, nor does it deal with fish, amphibians or insects.

Where We Go From Here

The Yukon Department of Environment will develop a summary of comments after this public consultation period.

The department will draft proposed regulations that will then be subjected to a public review coordinated by the Fish and Wildlife Management Board in the fall of 2002. Following the Board's review, the regulations will be finalized and sent to Cabinet for approval. Current plans call for the regulations to be in place by April 2003.

The new regulations are intended to provide for a managed approach to activities involving captive live wildlife. Part of the process to achieve this is to set standards on how wildlife can be captured and possessed in the Yukon and making sure that activities or operations involving captive wildlife meet the appropriate national and international standards. (see page 6)

The new regulations would also provide operational standards and direction, for activities such as record keeping, marking and tagging wildlife, that could apply to anyone wishing to capture or keep wildlife in captivity for any activity. (see page 6)

The discussion paper also outlines the standard of care that would be expected and placed in regulation. These could cover everything from protecting the health of the animal to defining the nutrition and sanitation requirements for the animal while in care. (See page 6)

It is proposed that the new regulations deal with the following seven activities:

Activity 1 — Wildlife Viewing Facilities (See page 8)

Captive wildlife are defined in the discussion paper as live wildlife contained or confined in some way and wildlife viewing facilities are defined as wildlife viewing parks, preserves, zoological gardens or zoos; commercial operations for public viewing.

Wildlife viewing facilities have operated in the territory for over 30 years and a moratorium is now in place on new operations until the new regulations are developed.

The discussion now is to determine government's and individual operator's responsibilities for the wildlife viewing facilities and to develop a comprehensive set of rules about the capture or keeping of wildlife in captivity.

Activity 2 —Falconry (Birds of Prey) (See page 10)

Falconry is the use of trained birds of prey for hunting (falconry) and commercially in trade or for captive breeding. The discussion paper notes that people can presently capture and hold birds of prey for reasons other than scientific research and asks whether rules to administer this activity should cover the standards of care and specific operational requirements such as rules for applicants and restrictions on the number and type of species that can be held.

Activity 3 — Scientific Research (See page 12)

The discussion paper enters new ground in asking whether new rules are needed to govern the way scientific research is carried out and authorized in the territory.

The Yukon Department of Business, Tourism and Culture issues a Scientists and Explorers Licence to authorize a scientific study to be carried on in the Yukon and the Canadian Committee on Animal Care (CCAC) is setting national standards for the care of wildlife captured or in captivity for scientific, research purposes.

Under the new *Wildlife Act*, the government has the authority to issue licences or permits to keep wildlife in captivity for scientific research but needs regulations to guide the activity.

The capture or confinement of wildlife for scientific and research purposes can include the study of wildlife in their natural habitat. Many of these activities do not result in long term wildlife captivity, but may require limited animal capture and release for scientific study. Other activities include introductions and re-locations of some wildlife species.

Activity 4 — Import/export and trade in live wildlife (See page 14)

The *Wildlife Act* prohibits the import and export of wildlife, except by permit.

In the past, people needed permits for all of these activities, but the Yukon used conditions on permits rather than comprehensive rules in regulations to direct these activities.

Wildlife importing can occur for scientific, relocation and re-introduction purposes such as the re-introduction of wood bison in 1986. It can also occur for animals needed in film productions or for the pet trade and for breeding stock.

The export of wildlife is also done for commercial and non-commercial reasons. Yukon wildlife has gone to zoos and to private collections and has also been used to re-introduce species, such as lynx to Colorado.

The discussion paper asks whether there should be new rules for import/export activities; comments on the potential threat of non-native species becoming established in the Yukon's wild ecosystems through escapes, and questions whether we need a system of permanent marking and lifetime tracing of animals moved across territorial, provincial and international borders.

Activity 5 — Fur farming (See page 17)

Mink and fox farms were established in the Yukon in the early 1900s. This activity continued until approximately 1937 when the Yukon government made it illegal to feed wild game animals to captive mink and fox. Without this readily available supply of inexpensive food, fur farming was not profitable and the last fur farm closed.

Yukoners again looked at the feasibility of fur farming when fur prices reached all time records during the latter half of the 1980s. Although fur prices have come down considerably, and feed costs are increasing, - local wildlife cannot be used to feed farmed animals - the interest in this activity remains. There is one active fur farm licence in the territory now.

The new *Wildlife Act* requires fur farmers to hold a licence to run a farm, but the new act also states that conditions for managing that farm must be supported by regulations.

The discussion paper asks the public to recommend which species would be acceptable for Yukon fur farming - native, non-native or both - and for their thoughts on other issues such as the need for fur farmers to exchange breeding stock and the preferred definition of a fur farm.

Activity 6— Wildlife as pets (See page 19)

The discussion paper's overview on this topic covers the new definition of wildlife: all animals "wild by nature", not just animals native to the Yukon. This may include some animals sold in pet stores. This also includes keeping non-domesticated (but perhaps tame) wildlife as pets.

Among the issues the public is being asked to comment on is whether rules should be developed for captive wildlife kept as pets and whether there should be a list of species for the native, non-native species that would be permitted in the Yukon.

Activity 7— Sick, injured, orphaned wildlife (See page 21)

This normally comes into place when people try to help injured wildlife hit by motor vehicles, birds that have flown into windows and injured themselves, and when well-meaning people "rescue" that seemingly abandoned moose calf while the cow moose watches from a safe distance. There are also cases where female wildlife are killed accidentally, and leave young orphans.

Under the new *Act*, people who care for sick, injured or orphaned wildlife must have a permit to possess wildlife. The new Act also requires the government to develop new regulations to govern this activity.

The discussion paper suggests rules to guide this activity also questions whether a process should be established for a person to become a wildlife custodian.

For more detailed information, to help you develop and send in your comments, pick up a copy of the full Captive Wildlife Discussion Paper from your nearest Environment Yukon office, the main Whitehorse office at 10 Burns Road, or from the front desk of the Yukon Government Administration Building on Second Avenue in Whitehorse.

Copies can also be obtained from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board office at 410B Jarvis Street in downtown Whitehorse.

If copies are not available, please call Environment Yukon's main desk, 667-5652 for arrangements to be made for a copy to be sent to you.

There are three ways for you to comment in writing on the discussion paper or the proposed regulations.

1. by mail

   Captive Wildlife Review
   Director, Fish & Wildlife Branch
   Department of Environment
   Box 2703 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

2. by Fax:

   Yukon Fish & Wildlife Branch (867) 393-6405

3. by e-mail

   captive.wildlife@gov.yk.ca

The deadline for your comments is: June 30, 2002

Yukon
Environment

Captive Wildlife

Discussion Paper

May, 2002

Yukon
Environment

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Minister's Message:

This discussion paper is your starting point for input on how government can effectively manage wildlife in captivity in the Yukon.

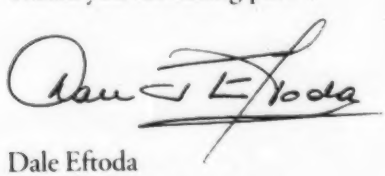
The department has never had a comprehensive program and legislation to properly address the complexity of caring for wildlife in captivity. The new Yukon *Wildlife Act* provides for regulations to manage activities related to keeping wildlife in captivity. That is why we are undertaking this discussion of captive wildlife. It is a unique opportunity to decide what we mean by "captive wildlife" so that we can develop regulations to clarify processes for a variety of activities in the Yukon.

We need these regulations to effectively manage all wildlife generally, to protect captive wildlife specifically and to ensure the health and safety of people who come into contact with wildlife in captivity.

This Discussion Paper covers a range of activities that could occur here in the Yukon, including wildlife viewing facilities, falconry, fur farming, wildlife as pets and, sick, injured and orphaned wildlife. I want to be clear at the outset that this initiative does not include a review of licensed game farming activities which are covered under the Game Farm Regulations.

We expect that the process to develop regulations will take a year to complete. I encourage all Yukon citizens, as well other governments, boards, councils and stakeholder groups to participate in this consultative process.

Thank you for taking part.



Dale Eftoda
Minister of Environment

About this Discussion Paper:

We are asking for comments and ideas on each activity that involves the capture or possession of live wildlife. We want to know what Yukoners think about how these activities should be managed. The outcome of this public consultation will guide government decisions about managing captive wildlife in the Yukon.

Many of these activities have never undergone a public review. The regulatory review paper now before you is an opportunity for you to tell us what you think about all of these activities.

These activity areas include:

1. wildlife viewing facilities (e.g. wildlife parks or zoos);
2. falconry (involving birds of prey);
3. scientific research;
4. import/export/transport and exchange of wildlife;
5. fur farming;
6. wildlife as pets; and
7. sick, injured and orphaned wildlife.

1. Game farming is not included in this review as it is already covered under Game Farm Regulations under the *Wildlife Act*. However, some of the new regulations will apply to game farm animals (muskox, bison and elk) when those animals are involved in other captive wildlife activities such as wildlife viewing or scientific research. General regulations dealing with business requirements and standards of care for captive wildlife could apply to wildlife viewing or scientific research.

2. This paper does not deal with domestic animals (e.g. dogs, cats or cattle), nor does it deal with fish, amphibians or invertebrates (e.g. insects).

Step 1 — Discussion Paper

This paper outlines considerations, issues and the proposed approach for each of the activities where wildlife is held in captivity. Each identified area ends with questions for you to consider and space for your comments.

If you want to comment on other matters about captive wildlife that we do not address in this paper, please outline your ideas in the space provided at the back of the discussion paper, or on a separate sheet of paper.

There are three ways for you to comment.

1. by mail

Captive Wildlife Review
Fish & Wildlife Branch
Yukon Department of Environment
Box 2703 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

2. by Fax:

Yukon Fish & Wildlife Branch (867) 393-6405

3. by e-mail

captive.wildlife@gov.yk.ca

If you do not have enough space on the pages of this document, please use extra paper for your comments – but be sure to clearly identify the question to which your comments relate.

The deadline for your comments is: June 30, 2002

Step 2 — Report on your comments

The Yukon Department of Environment will develop a summary of comments after the public consultation period.

Step 3 — Proposals for draft regulations

The department will develop proposals for regulations. These proposals will undergo a public review coordinated by the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board in the fall of 2002. Following the Board review, regulations will be finalized and sent to Cabinet for approval in April 2003.

On peut obtenir la version francaise sur demande.

The Discussion

Remember, activity areas addressed in this Discussion Paper include:
- wildlife viewing facilities (e.g. wildlife parks or zoos);
- falconry;
- scientific research;
- import/export/transport and exchange of wildlife;
- fur farming;
- wildlife as pets; and
- sick, injured and orphaned wildlife.

In January 2002, the Department of Renewable Resources (now the Department of Environment) stopped issuing permits for new activities involving the capture or holding of Yukon wildlife until it develops policy and regulations under the new *Wildlife Act*.

Live Wildlife in Captivity

New regulations would enable effective management of captive live wildlife by:
- stating how wildlife can be captured or possessed;
- making sure that wildlife in captivity are consistently well cared for (establishing standards for a captive animal's environment, looking after the animal's physical and psychological well being and looking after the interests of indigenous wildlife that may come into contact with captive wildlife); and
- making sure that activities or operations involving captive wildlife meet the appropriate national and international standards and quality control so that visitors are protected.

Standard requirements for wildlife in captivity

We have both operational requirements and standards of care to consider. These could apply to all activities involving wildlife in captivity. (Game farming is not included in this review.)

1. Business requirements:
These requirements could apply to anyone applying to capture or keep wildlife in captivity for any activity. They include:
- reporting structures, record keeping, penalties;
- species permitted and the number of individuals of each species;
- capture and acquisition methods (from other operations or from the wild);
- marking methods (tag, tattoo, banding, microchip);
- requirements for cages, fencing;
- site plan (including size of enclosures); and
- safety and security (including public health and safety considerations).

2. Standards of care requirements:
Standards of care refer to how operators should care for wildlife to protect the health and well being of the animals, including:
- nutrition;
- sanitation and disease control;
- procedures for dealing with sick, injured or orphaned wildlife;
- veterinary care;
- euthanasia (the killing of an animal to end suffering); and
- disposal of carcasses including body parts and other byproducts.

Definition of terms used in this Discussion Paper:

- **birds of prey**: any bird of the order Falconiformes or Strigiformes (commonly known as eagles, hawks, falcons, accipiters, buteos, buzzards or owls)

- **captive wildlife**: live wildlife captured, contained or confined in some way (see wildlife definition below)

- **domestic animal**: an animal that is not "wild by nature" (e.g. cat, dog, cow)

- **falconry**: the use of a trained bird of prey for hunting

- **fur farming**: a licensed activity to raise captive mink, marten, fox and lynx for a product (e.g. fur pelt)

- **game farming**: a licensed activity to keep muskox, elk, and wood bison for a product (e.g. captive raising and breeding or for meat)

- **licence**: issued under the *Wildlife Act;* includes any conditions that a licence holder must follow to maintain the licence; generally issued for a long term activity

- **non-native wildlife** (sometimes referred to as exotic wildlife): an animal that is not "wild by nature" in the Yukon; native exotic wildlife includes species native to other parts of Canada, but not found in the Yukon; non-native exotic wildlife is wildlife not native to Canada, but found in the wild in other parts of the world. Non-native wildlife is included in the definition of wildlife under the new *Act*

- **permit**: issued under the *Wildlife Act;* includes conditions that a permit holder must follow in order to maintain the permit; generally issued for a short-term activity

- **wildlife**: defined in the new *Wildlife Act* as "species wild by nature"

- **wildlife viewing facilities**: zoos/zoological gardens; facilities licensed to keep wildlife in captivity for public viewing and education (e.g. school tours, tourism)

What happens in other parts of Canada?
Many jurisdictions in Canada have comprehensive rules which address the basic issues that arise when live wildlife are kept in captivity. In some jurisdictions (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Alberta, the Northwest Territories and Newfoundland) people must have a licence to hold wildlife in captivity. In most jurisdictions, applicants must supply documentation that outlines the land status, number of animals, health plan, public liability insurance, facility and area requirements, recording processes and procedures. To maintain the licence, holders must adhere to all of the standards attached to it or correct shortcomings within a certain period of time.

Activity 1

Wildlife Viewing Facilities

Definitions:

- **captive wildlife** — live wildlife contained or confined in some way
- **wildlife viewing facilities** — wildlife kept in facilities commonly referred to as wildlife viewing parks, preserves, zoological gardens or zoos; commercial operations for public viewing

Status of this activity:

- Wildlife viewing facilities, operations or activities have been in the Yukon for over 30 years. Only a few exist right now. These operations may also provide a public service by taking in sick, injured or orphaned wildlife.
- In January 2002, the Minister of the Department of Environment issued a moratorium on new operations and on the acquisition of new species for commercial wildlife viewing operations and activities until regulations are developed and a policy is in place (spring 2003).

Considerations:

- the responsibilities of the government and individual operators of wildlife viewing facilities
- the question of enforceable standards to keep wildlife in an appropriate and safe manner and to protect public health and safety
- the need for processes for reporting losses of wildlife in captivity (through escape or death) and for capturing and maintaining wildlife in captivity (including procedures for dealing with sick, injured and orphaned wildlife, euthanasia and procedures for the disposal of deceased wildlife including body parts and other byproducts)

Proposed approach:

- Review acceptable activities.
- Develop a comprehensive set of rules about the capture or keeping of wildlife in captivity. These rules would cover species of animals, types of enclosures, nutrition and health, public safety, procedures for sick, diseased, injured, orphaned and dead wildlife, including byproducts.
- Make sure that the rules also address a process for marking, tagging and identifying wildlife in captivity as well as a process for reporting losses through accidental injury or death.

- Establish an Animal Care Committee to review applications for new activities involving captive wildlife.
- Involve veterinarians in developing and implementing procedures for treating, monitoring and reporting sick, injured and deceased wildlife.

Activity1 - What do you think?

➢ What species (native to Canada, non-native to Canada) are acceptable for this activity?

_____

_____

➢ What kinds of rules would you like to see to guide this activity?

_____

_____

➢ Should dangerous species (native, non-native) be kept in captivity? YES _____NO_____

➢ How should wildlife for this activity be captured or obtained?

from the wild _____

_____

from other operations _____

_____

What conditions should apply? _____

_____

_____

_____

➢ What activities are appropriate (e.g. tourism, school tours, other)?

_____

_____

➢ What activities would not be appropriate? _____

_____

➢ Do you support:

large natural operations (e.g. wildlife in natural habitat)? YES _____NO_____

please comment

_____

_____

small operations (e.g. bear in a cage)? YES _____NO _____

please comment

_____

_____

➢ Should the disposal of dead wildlife in captivity be regulated? YES _____ NO_____

please comment

_____

_____

Activity 2

Falconry (Birds of Prey)

Definition:
- the use of a trained bird of prey species for hunting

What is it?
- People use birds of prey recreationally for hunting (falconry) and commercially for trade or for captive breeding.

Status of this activity:
- People may capture and hold birds of prey for reasons other than the scientific, research and rehabilitation purposes recognized in the *Wildlife Act.* People can use birds recreationally for hunting (falconry) and commercially for trade. They may also use birds for captive breeding, tourism, education and display (e.g. zoos).
- Birds of prey in captivity require banding for identification.
- Under the new *Wildlife Act* licence holders may hold a bird of prey in captivity for scientific research, rehabilitation and relocation, or for other reasons for which the licence or permit is granted (with conditions or rules that cover standards of care and operational requirements).
- In some jurisdictions, licence applicants must meet specific criteria before they qualify to capture and keep a bird of prey.

Considerations:
- the methods for capturing wild birds of prey
- the numbers and species of birds of prey that a permit or licence holder may take
- standards of care and the operational requirements (including requirements for marking or banding birds)
- licence qualifications and criteria for applicants (e.g. experience, purpose and facility/accommodation plans)
- special requirements (e.g. import/export of BC/Yukon birds)

Proposed approach:
- Review acceptable activities.
- Develop rules to administer this activity which could cover the standards of care and the specific operational requirements including procedures for applicants, number and type of species, marking/banding requirements, harvest requirements, procedures for sick, injured, deceased birds, etc.

Activity2 - What do you think?

➢ What activities are appropriate (e.g. falconry, captive breeding of falcons)?

➢ What concerns do you have about these activities?

➢ What kinds of rules would you like to see to guide these activities?

➢ How should birds be captured or otherwise obtained?

➢ How many birds should a licence/permit holder be allowed to capture?

Activity 3

Scientific Research

Definition:

- the capture or confinement of wildlife for scientific and research purposes

What is it?

- Scientific research includes activities such as studying wildlife in their natural habitat (e.g. lynx and predator-prey relationships). Many of these activities do not result in long term wildlife captivity, but they may require limited animal capture and release for scientific study. Other activities include re-introductions of some wildlife species (e.g. the Colorado Lynx Project).

Status of this activity:

- The Yukon has large tracts of undeveloped lands and abundant wildlife populations that attract wildlife researchers.
- In the past, the Yukon government issued sundry permits for scientific research. Under the new *Wildlife Act*, the government has the authority to issue permits to keep wildlife in captivity for scientific research but we need regulations to guide the activity.
- The Yukon Department of Business, Tourism and Culture issues a Scientists and Explorers Licence to authorize a study carried on in the Yukon. Under new regulations, applicants for permits to conduct studies involving wildlife would go through the Department of Environment for review if wildlife are to be involved in a scientific research study.
- The Canadian Committee on Animal Care (CCAC) is setting national standards for the care of wildlife captured or in captivity for scientific research purposes. These standards address methods of capture, restraint, field study considerations for such things as mortality and euthanasia of wildlife in the field, chemical restraints and anesthesia, drug delivery and human safety considerations.

Considerations:

- wildlife management decisions are based on good research and local knowledge
- eligibility criteria are important for permits or licences for individuals, researchers, universities, governments

Proposed approach:

- Develop rules to guide this activity in the Yukon.
- Establish an Animal Care Committee. This would be a body that would provide recommendations on animal health and safety and review scientific research proposals.
- Adopt operational requirements and standards of care for the capture or captivity of wildlife (including procedures for applicants, inspections, reporting, marking, procedures for sick or injured wildlife, human safety, etc.).
- Develop a third party review process for research proposals.
- Develop re-introduction assessment criteria for projects in the territory (e.g. wood bison) or outside the territory (e.g. Colorado lynx).
- Decide if we need different levels of screening based on the status of the species (i.e. endangered, threatened, common).

Activity 3 - What do you think?

➢ Who should require permits to conduct scientific research on wildlife in the Yukon?

➢ What kinds of rules would you like to see to guide these activities?

➢ What concerns do you have about these activities?

Activity 4

Import/Export of Live Wildlife

Definition:

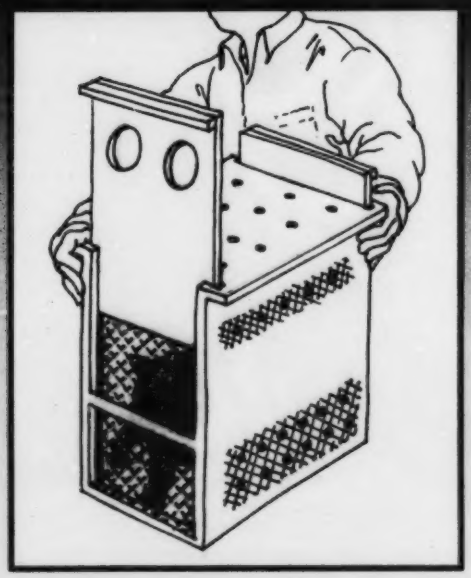
- the movement of live wildlife for various reasons (commercial, non-commercial) into and out of the Yukon (Import, export and trade applies to all of the operational areas cited in this paper.)

What is it?

- The capture, sale, import and export of wildlife in the Yukon for commercial use (e.g. wildlife for sale and private ownership and to fur farms) and for non-commercial and scientific use (e. g. re-introduction and restoration of endangered populations, restoration of weakened gene pools among already captive animals and for scientific research).

Status of this activity:

- The *Wildlife Act* prohibits the import and export of wildlife, except by permit.
- In the past, people needed permits for all of these activities (import, export and trade). The Yukon used conditions on permits rather than a comprehensive set of rules to direct these activities.



Import:

- Wildlife importing occurs for scientific, relocation and re-introduction purposes and for commercial puropses. For example, wood bison were introduced to the Yukon in 1986 to establish a free-roaming herd.
- Wildlife importing also occurs in commercial operations such as filming, the pet trade, or breeding stock on game farms and in wildlife viewing facilities.
- Veterinary inspections are required for importing wildlife.

Export:

- Wildlife export is done for commercial and non-commercial reasons. Yukon wildlife has gone to zoos and to private collections.
- Anyone who wants to export any wildlife from the Yukon must have a wildlife export permit under the *Wildlife Act*.
- Yukon wildlife has also been used for introductions and re-introductions (e.g. Yukon lynx to Colorado).
- The Yukon Government developed an interim policy on the live capture and sale of furbearers in 1989 and addresses such matters as care of furbearers in captivity, transportation, live capture techniques, shipping methods and veterinary inspections.

- At the request of the Yukon Trappers Association and the Council of Yukon First Nations, there is a ban on exporting live Yukon lynx and marten for commercial purposes. This prohibition was put into place to protect Yukon trappers from competing markets.

Considerations:

- import/export activities are part of many of the activity areas described in this paper
- the potential threat of some non-native (exotic) species to Yukon ecosystems if they became established in the wild through escapes
- a system of permanent marking and lifetime tracing of animals moved across territorial, provincial and national borders to help with investigations of disease outbreaks and genetic contamination (industries involving livestock in Canada are moving towards this kind of system.)
- the lack of control that the government has over the movement or ownership of wildlife once it leaves the Yukon
- the trade in DNA or other genetic material
- the suitability of various markets (e.g. re-introduction programs, zoos, private collections)

Proposed approach:

- Establish rules to guide the capture, sale, import and export activities. These rules would cover operational requirements and standards of care including procedures for sick and injured wildlife in captivity, marking, etc.
- Establish criteria, conditions and procedures for issuing import and export permits. Criteria on export may include standards as set in other jurisdictions. Applicants would have to qualify before getting an export permit.

(see questions next page)

Activity 4 - What do you think?

➢ What kinds of rules would you like to see to guide these activities?

➢ In what circumstances should the Yukon allow the import and export or trade in wildlife?

➢ What types of species would qualify for these activities (e.g. furbearers)?

➢ What conditions should apply to these activities?

➢ What criteria should apply to export permits (e.g. should the Yukon be a source of wildlife for zoos, fur farms)?

➢ Does the Yukon have a responsibility to take measures to make sure that Yukon wildlife shipped outside the territory is treated in a humane manner and used for the stated purpose?

➢ How should trade in captive wildlife or genetic material be monitored?

Fur Farming

Activity 5

Definition:

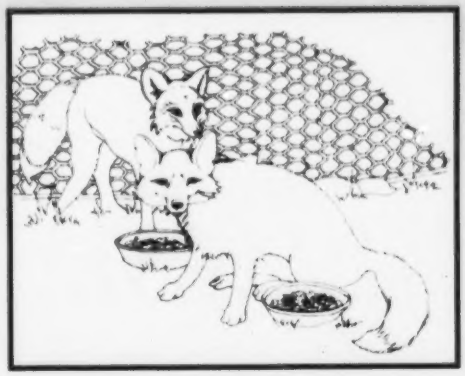
- a licensed activity to raise captive mink, marten, fox and lynx for a product (e.g. fur pelt).

What is it?

- Mink and fox are the species most commonly farmed for this purpose.
- There is limited farming activity, mostly experimental, with species like lynx, marten and beaver in Canada.
- Non indigenous species like chinchilla are commonly raised on North American farms for their fur.

Status of this activity:

- Mink and fox farms were established in the Yukon in the early 1900s. Yukoners first got involved by providing breeding stock to farms in southern Canada. Later, Yukon fur farmers raised their own animals and a small cottage industry began. This activity continued until approximately 1937 when the Yukon government made it illegal to feed wild game animals to captive mink and fox. Without this readily available supply of inexpensive food, fur farming was not profitable.
- In the mid to late 1980s, fur prices reached all time records and Yukoners again looked at the feasibility of fur farming. Although fur prices have come down considerably and feed costs are increasing (local wildlife cannot be used to feed farmed animals) the interest in this activity remains.
- People must have a licence under the *Wildlife Act* to run a fur farm. Because there are no fur farm regulations, the activity is guided by conditions placed on the licence by the department. Under the new *Wildlife Act*, these conditions must be supported by regulations.
- An interim fur farm policy has been in place since 1985 which provides guidance to the conditions placed on licences.
- A ministerial prohibition makes it illegal to export live marten or lynx (except for scientific and re-introduction purposes). This prohibition protects Yukon trappers from competing markets.
- Mink and fox farmers in Canada have codes of practice to guide the fur industry. These codes replace government regulations in some jurisdictions.



Considerations:

- what species are acceptable for fur farming (e.g. native, non-native or both)
- the need for fur farmers to exchange breeding stock
- how fur farmers may build their stock (captured from the wild or purchased from existing farms)
- the definition of what we mean by fur farm (e.g. raising of furbearers for pelt or selling live furbearers, or both)
- rules about the care of animals in this activity (e.g. cage size, structure, feed, etc.)
- the issue of disease and genetic contamination (captive animals escaping or otherwise coming into contact with wild animals)
- import and export requirements and limitations
- legal trade in by-products (e.g. skeletons, skulls, meat)

Proposed approach:

- Develop rules to guide fur farming. The rules could cover standards of care and operational requirements including procedures for capturing animals, recording, reporting, conducting inspections, identifying the number and type of species, etc.

➢ What kinds of rules should be in place to guide these activities?

_____

_____

➢ What activities are appropriate?

_____

_____

➢ What species are appropriate for these activities?

_____

_____

➢ Should Yukon wild populations be a source for breeding stock for fur farms?

_____

_____

➢ Should the current prohibition on the export of live lynx and marten continue?
YES _____ NO _____

please comment

_____

➢ Should this activity be guided by an industry code of practice or by some regulatory control?

_____

Wildlife as Pets

Activity 6

Definition:

- an animal kept for pleasure rather than utility (e.g. a lynx kept as a pet)

What is it?

- The new definition of wildlife includes all animals "wild by nature", not just animals native to the Yukon and may include some animals sold in pet stores.
- This activity includes keeping non-domesticated (but perhaps tame) wildlife as pets.

Status of this activity:

- Wildlife could be imported as pets (e.g. ferrets) from other jurisdictions.
- Permits have also been issued for the private keeping of wildlife for purposes such as the rehabilitation and rearing of orphaned or injured animals. In some instances these animals cannot be returned to the wild.
- Other regulatory regimes cover some of the issues (e.g. The Criminal Code of Canada covers issues of cruelty, some municipalities have pet import restrictions to protect people from dangerous animals or to protect other animals from disease transmission.).

Considerations:

- many animals typically sold as pets in the Yukon may be excluded from regulation because they do not pose any risk to Yukon wildlife or human health
- many animals do well in captivity but would not survive if abandoned in the Yukon environment
- the origins of pets when they arrive in the territory (Municipalities can regulate through bylaw to manage wildlife as pets, but the Yukon Department of Environment could ask for additional reporting to consider whether or not the animal is dangerous to people or other animals, or if it is a potential threat to a natural ecosystem or habitat.)
- mechanisms to assess the effect of disease and destruction to the ecosystem that could occur if wildlife is imported as pets

Proposed approach:

- Develop rules about captive wildlife as pets. These rules could address the process for assessing the importation of captive wild pets and their effect on the environment.
- Make sure that regulations cover operational requirements and standards of care for activities involving the pet trade where captive wildlife is involved.
- Develop a list of species (native, non-native species) that would or would not be permitted in the Yukon.

Activity 6 - What do you think?

➢ What kinds of rules should be in place to guide this activity?

➢ Should any wildlife be kept as pets?

➢ What types of wildlife should be excluded from regulation (e.g. Domestic animals are not part of this discussion but some fairly common animals found in pet stores could be considered wildlife.)?

➢ How should we handle the issue of hybrids such as a wolf/dog cross?

Sick, Injured, Orphaned Wildlife

Activity 7

Definition:
- wildlife that is sick, hurt or abandoned or orphaned

What is it?
- Wildlife injured by motor vehicles.
- Birds that fly into windows and injure themselves.
- Well-meaning people often "rescue" a seemingly abandoned moose calf while the cow moose watches from a safe distance.
- Female wildlife killed accidentally, or otherwise, may leave orphans.

Status of this activity:
- If people contact the Department of Environment when they receive or encounter sick, injured, orphaned wildlife, department staff takes appropriate action in the interest of the wildlife (e.g. an injured Yukon owl sent to a bird of prey rehabilitation site in Alberta).
- Department officials receive, monitor, accommodate and in some cases relocate the animals. In some cases veterinary care is required.
- Under the *Wildlife Act*, people must have a permit to possess any wildlife. Volunteer custodians (other than department officials) of sick, injured or orphaned wildlife were issued sundry permits under the old *Wildlife Act*.
- Under the new *Act*, these custodians must have a permit to possess wildlife. Regulations are required to govern this activity.
- Humane Societies in the Yukon have some interest in caring for wild animals but their focus is on domestic animals.
  Many jurisdictions have an Animal Care Committee which makes recommendations on activities involving sick, injured and orphaned wildlife.

Considerations:
- standards for wildlife custodians (qualifications, standard of care, training and facilities)
- department procedures for handling sick, injured and orphaned wildlife
- a process to find suitable homes for abandoned or orphaned wildlife (e.g. zoos)
- operational requirements and standards of care for sick, injured, orphaned wildlife in captivity

- the need to clarify the requirements for facilities or operations involved in caring for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife
- the concept of an Animal Care Committee to make recommendations on activities involving the care of wildlife in captivity
- a public adoption program of abandoned or orphaned wildlife so that sick or injured animals receive good care until the department can find a place for them

Wildlife custodians include individuals who have some ability to care for an animal. Wildlife custodians can also be an agency, facility or organization with the resources to provide care. The Yukon has several custodians who are able to care for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife.

Proposed approach:

- Establish rules to guide this activity in the Yukon.
- Establish an Animal Care Committee for the Yukon.
- Establish a process to become a wildlife custodian.
- Identify alternative homes or facilities for orphaned wildlife.

➢ What kinds of rules should be in place to guide these activities?

➢ Should the government appoint wildlife custodians to look after sick, injured or orphaned wildlife? What kind of training should volunteer custodians receive?

➢ Under what conditions should sick, injured or orphaned wildlife be sent outside of the Yukon?

➢ Should individuals be able to keep orphaned wildlife? If so under what conditions?

➢ What should happen to wild animals taken into human care for humane reasons if they cannot be returned to the wild?